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County of Cornwall



SAINT IVES  
URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

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Medical Officer's  
Annual Report.

1938



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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TO THE

Saint Ives Urban Sanitary Authority for the year 1938.

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GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1938.

The Ministry of Health has again this year asked for an ordinary report.

The area of Civil Parishes contained in this District is 4,339 acres.

The normal resident Population for the area as now constituted is 7,877.

The number of Inhabited Houses in 1938 was 2,800.

Rateable Value, £53,140.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £199 18s. 7d.

Vital Statistics.

During the year there were 84 live births (46 male and 38 female). Of these, 1 male was illegitimate. The corrected birth-rate was 10·66 per 1,000 per annum (birth-rate per 1,000 of England and Wales, 15·1). There were four stillbirths (1 male and 3 females), none being illegitimate.

The deaths were 131 (63 males and 68 females). The local crude death-rate would therefore be equivalent to 16·63 per 1,000 per annum, but in order to compare it with the death-rate of the country as a whole, due regard has to be given to the higher average age of the inhabitants of the district. After making due allowance for this factor, the local adjusted death-rate is 11·64 per 1,000 and this figure compares with 11·6 per 1,000 for England Wales.

The following table gives the percentage of deaths from the commoner conditions:

	1938	1937	1936
Heart Disease ... ...	37·4 per cent.	34·4 per cent.	37·16 per cent.
Cancer (malignant disease)	12·2 per cent.	10·9 per cent.	11·50 per cent.
Tuberculosis (all types) ...	4·58 per cent.	5·04 per cent.	6·19 per cent.
Nephritis ... ... ...	Nil	2·52 per cent.	1·77 per cent.
Accidents ... ... ...	3·8 per cent.	1·6 per cent.	1·77 per cent.

The maternal mortality based on deaths primarily classed to puerperal conditions is as follows:—

Puerperal Sepsis per 1,000 live births, nil (corresponding figure for England and Wales, 0·89)  
 Puerperal Sepsis per 1,000 total births nil (corresponding figure for England and Wales, 0·86)  
 Other accidents and diseases } per 1,000 live births, nil (England and Wales, 2·19)  
 of pregnancy and parturition } per 1,000 total births, nil (England and Wales, 2·11)

### Causes of Death.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ... ...	6	10	16
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ... ...	3	2	5
Tuberculosis (other forms) ... ... ...	1		1
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ... ...	3	5	8
Influenza ... ... ...	1	1	2
Heart Disease ... ... ...	21	28	49
Other circulatory diseases ... ... ...	4	1	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ... ... ...	6	6	12
Congenital Debility (premature birth, etc.) ... ...	1	1	2
Diabetes ... ... ...	5	2	7
Other digestive diseases (not peptic ulcer) ... ...	1		1
Peptic Ulcer ... ... ...		2	2
Senility ... ... ...		3	3
Other liver diseases ... ... ...		2	2
Suicide ... ... ...	1		1
Other Violence ... ... ...	5		5
Other defined diseases ... ... ...	5	5	10
Total from all causes ... ... ...	63	68	131

### Infantile Mortality.

There were 5 deaths in children under the age of one year, viz., 4 males and 1 female, 1 male being illegitimate, the rate of Infantile Mortality being 59·5 per thousand births. Rate for England and Wales, 53·0.

The following table gives the causes of Infantile deaths:

Broncho-Pneumonia ... ... ...	2
Congenital Debility and malformation or premature births	2
Asphyxia (accidental overlaying) ... ...	1
Total ...	5

### Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Diseases	1—2 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	Total all ages	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...		2	2	4		
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	1			1		
Paratyphoid ...			1	1		
Total ... ...	1	2	3	6		

The rate of Notifiable Infectious Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) was 0.76 per thousand population.

16 visits were paid to infected houses, including the disinfection of 5.

The case rates of the above diseases per 1,000 population are as follows :—

Pneumonia	0.12	(England and Wales 1.10)
Scarlet Fever	0.48	( , , , 2.41)
Enteric Fever	0.12	( , , , 0.03)

I am pleased to be able to report that the Borough remained entirely free from cases of Diphtheria during the year.

### Tuberculosis.

#### NEW CASES

#### DEATHS

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
5—10 years			1					
10—15 years								
15—20 years	1			1		1		
20—25 years								
25—35 years	2	2			1		1	
35—45 years	1							
45—55 years	2	2			1	1		
55—65 years	1							
65 and upwards		1				1		
Total	7	5	1	1	3	2	1	

The provisional death-rate per million population from Tuberculosis are as follows :

	Males	Females	Persons
Respiratory Tuberculosis	380	253	316
Other Tuberculosis	126	nil	63

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### Hospital, Nursing and Sick Transport Services.

There are no professional Nurses for infectious diseases, no Clinic or Treatment Centre for Tuberculosis or Venereal disease. An Infant Welfare Clinic is held in the Borough and is rendering useful service. There are 3 District Nurses who also practice Midwifery. No Hospitals are as yet provided by the Local Authority or by the County Council. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for the District is held at the West Cornwall Infirmary, Penzance, where the Tuberculosis Officer attends weekly. An Orthopædic Clinic is also held here to which cases from the Borough have access.

The nearest Venereal Clinic is at Tuckingmill, near Camborne.

The Edward Hain Memorial Cottage Hospital, St. Ives, supplies the medical and surgical needs of the Borough in so far as a Hospital of this type is capable of doing.

Other Hospitals serving the area are :

The West Cornwall Infirmary, Penzance. The County Mental Hospital, Bodmin.  
The County Maternity Ward, Redruth Hospital.

The work of transporting the sick and injured to and from the Hospitals is ably carried out by the local Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, which equips and maintains a Motor Ambulance. A grant of £15 was made by your Council with regard to these services during the past year.

No progress has been made with regard to the provision of an Infectious Disease Hospital for the combined Districts of St. Ives, Penzance, St. Just and West Penwith. The suggested site at Ludgvan\* has been definitely turned down. Negotiations have been proceeding in regard to a suggested site near Penzance, but no definite conclusions have been arrived at. It is felt that the suggested cost of the scheme is prohibitive, and that it would throw a heavy burden upon the districts concerned.

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### Laboratory Work, etc.

All Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out either by the Pathological Laboratory at Redruth or by the Pathological Department of the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. Diphtheria anti-toxin is provided by your Council free in all necessitous cases and provision is also made for the examination of swabs in all suspected cases of Diphtheria.

### Statement of Adoptive Acts.

Act	Date of Adoption	Parts or Sections	Date Adopted
Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889	22nd July, 1892	All	1st October, 1892
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	22nd July, 1892	All	1st October, 1892
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	8th August, 1904	All	10th October, 1904
Private Street Works Act, 1892	24th July, 1911	All	11th September, 1911
Public Libraries Act, 1892	15th March, 1895	All	1st May, 1895
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907		Part II., Secs. 15 to 27 and 29 to 33 Part III., Secs. 34 to 42, 44 to 46, 49 to 51 Part IV., Secs 52 to 60, 62 to 65 Part V.—All Part VI.—All Part VII., Secs. 79, 81, and 82 Part VIII.—All Part X.—All	
Public Health Act, 1925	1st Sept., 1933	Parts II, III., IV. and V. and third schedule	

### Public Health Staff.

There is a certificated full-time Sanitary Inspector and a part-time Medical Officer. Half the salary in each case is paid by the Ministry of Health. An additional Sanitary Inspector is also employed full-time.

### Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects remedied ... ... ... ... ... ...	62
(2) Number of dwellings in respect of which defects were remedied after service of informal notices	
(a) By owners ... ... ... ... ...	54
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... —	
Number of Statutory Notices served ... ... ...	1

Nuisances discovered were as follows :

Damp and Dilapidated Dwellings	...	...	...	...	5
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	...	...	2
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	2
Defective and Choked Drains	...	...	...	...	25
Defective Water Closets	...	...	...	...	6
Want of Drainage	...	...	...	...	4
Insufficient Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	5
Overflowing Cesspits	...	...	...	...	5
Foul Accumulations	...	...	...	...	8
Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	2
Premises Rat-Infested	...	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	6

Visits of Inspection made in connection with the above :

Primary Inspections	...	...	...	...	66
Re-inspection	...	...	...	...	78

#### Arrangements for Disinfection.

After all cases of an infectious nature the rooms are disinfected by aid of Formalin gas. Disinfectants are supplied by the Council in most cases. There is no steam disinfecter in the district.

#### Inspection of Places where Food is Prepared.

There are 8 Bakehouses which are frequently inspected and found in sanitary condition  
There are no wholesale Butter and Cream Factories.

#### Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act.

The Act is administered by the County Council.

Samples taken during the year 1938, within the Borough of St. Ives.

No.	Name of Article	Genuine	Adulterated	Remarks
1	Milk	16	1	Vendor was Fined £6 11s. od. including costs, at St. Ives on 26th October, 1938, for selling adulterated Milk
2	Butter	2		
3	Baking Powder	1		
4	Cheese	1		
5	Honey	1		
6	Pepper	2		
7	Mint	1		
8	Brawn	1		
9	Vinegar	3		
10	Ice Cream	3		
11	Whisky	1		
	TOTAL	32	1	

Regulations under County Council are now operative for Registration of Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers. Visits of inspection were made and no cause for complaint was found.

### Smoke Abatement.

One complaint was received during the year. The nuisance was abated by informal action.

### Factories and Workshops.

There are about 67, including Silk, Laundry, Box and Engineering Work. Workshops consist chiefly of Plumbers, Carpenters and Smiths. Very few accommodate more than one or two employees. Numerous visits of inspection have been made.

### List of Trades carried on in the District.

Silk Factories	...	...	1	Motor Mechanics	...	...	16
Box Factories	...	...	1	Stone Masons	...	...	1
Fishermen's Requirements	...	...	2	Steam Laundries	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	4	Pottery Works	...	...	1
Bakeries	...	...	8	Engineering Works	...	...	1
Bootmakers and Repairers	...	...	12	Upholsterers	...	...	2
Basketmakers	...	...	1	Aerated Water Manufacturers	...	...	1
Plumbers and Tinsmiths	...	...	3				
Smiths	...	...	3				—
Carpenters and Wheelwrights	...	9				Total	67

### Shops Act, 1935.

48 Visits were made under the Act. No preliminary notices were found necessary in regard to cases where improvements were required.

### Schools.

The Schools in the Borough have been visited during the year when questions of Infectious Disease or undue sickness have arisen in connection with the scholars. No cause for complaint has been found in connection with the Sanitary conditions of the Schools..

### Dairies.

In the District most of the Farms produce cream or milk, and most of the Farmers are Purveyors of milk either wholesale or retail. There are 12 wholesale and 30 retail producers. Very few Farms now manufacture butter, most of the milk produced being taken to the Butter Factories in the district.

There are 25 Purveyors of Milk in the district and 5 who supply cream only.

Visits of inspection have been made to these.

It is still found necessary in some cases to remind the occupiers of regulations as to cleansing of cow-sheds.

In 4 cases drainage, lighting and ventilation matters required attention and the necessary improvements were carried out. In 4 cases attention was drawn to cleansing.

No cases of infectious disease occurred at farms during the year.

There are no producers of certified or Grade A. (T.T.) milk in the Borough.

### Slaughter Houses

There are 7 such premises under constant supervision. Many visits have also been made in cases of Occasional Slaughtering. The meat generally has been of good quality. Two Slaughter Houses were improved during the year in regard to drainage and water supply, and one was discontinued.

### Food Condemned.

The following articles of food were voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :

1 whole Carcase of Beef	...	...	Tuberculosis
36lbs. of Lamb...	...	...	Decomposition
8 Ox Kidneys ...	...	...	"
1 Ox Tongue ...	...	...	"
6 Tins of Jellied Veal	...	...	"
4 Tins of Corned Beef	...	...	"
1 Tin of Ox Tongue	...	...	"
6lbs. Finnon Haddock	...	...	"
1 Case of Peaches	...	...	"

### Housing Statistics

#### 1 Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	107
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	128
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	45
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	52
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	28
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	17

#### 2 Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	42
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#### 3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

##### (a)—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	0
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	o
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				...	...	...	o

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	i
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:				...	...	...	i
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	i
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				...	...	...	o

(c)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made						i
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders						i

(d)—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	o
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	o

#### 4 Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:

(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	3
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	3
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	16
(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year	...	...	...	6
(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	14
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	95

### Houses Erected 1938

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	115
(2) By private enterprise	...	...	10
	Total		125

Housing Act, 1936.—The work accomplished in the Borough under the five year programme, up-to-date, is as follows: 48 houses have been demolished in Clearance Areas, with the displacement of 176 persons. In addition, 164 individually unfit houses have been closed and 681 persons displaced.

Verminous Dwellings.—In one case only was action necessary during the year.

## Water Supplies, Sewerage and Refuse Disposal.

WATER.—During the year there were no complaints with reference to shortage of water. Periodical examination of water (chemically and bacteriologically) have shown the water to be satisfactory.

SEWERAGE.—The New Sewerage Scheme is nearing completion. Early arrangements are being made to connect up houses in the Carbis Bay District.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.—The New Incinerator has been in full use during the year, and this method of disposal is a great improvement on the former method, and has proved a great boon to the town.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.—The death-rate is the same as that for England and Wales, although it is somewhat higher than that of the previous year. The birth-rate, although slightly higher than the previous year, still remains regrettably low and much below that for England and Wales generally, being practically only two-thirds of this. The continued low birth-rate is a matter which must be viewed with some concern. The percentage of deaths from Tuberculosis continue to show a decrease, and it is to be hoped that this satisfactory state of affairs will continue as providing an index of the better conditions of housing and living which prevail. The rate of Infantile Mortality, although less than the preceding year, still remains higher than that of England and Wales as a whole, and would point to the need for further investigation into its causes. The low rates of notifiable infectious disease and the entire absence of cases of diphtheria during the year must be looked upon as very gratifying.

I have continued to receive valuable assistance in my work from the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. E. Phillips, A.R.S.I., and the Assistant Inspector, Mr. D. B. Davies, both of whom have, by their loyal co-operation, and the effective discharge of their duties, assisted very greatly in the Sanitary Control of the Borough.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. HADFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.



